

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

February 25, 2022



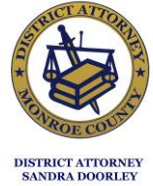
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Monroe County District Attorney's Office Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

Weekly Update

This past week has been a dark reminder that there is much to our lives that are completely out of our control. As global tensions rise, our hearts and prayers are with the Ukrainian people, especially our incredible Ukrainian community here in Rochester with friends and family who are living in uncertainty.

As the daughter of a World War II Veteran, I do not take these global events lightly. They weigh heavy on my mind and my heart. While there may be nothing we can do right now, I will continue to do my job to service the residents of Monroe County.

This week, the final chapter came to a close on a 5-month, long-term investigation that resulted in a homicide conviction and the seizure of six handguns, six shotguns, five rifles, 200 grams of cocaine, over 10 pounds of fentanyl, 53 grams of heroin and \$10,000 in cash. Ten individuals were arrested for the operation, including Luis Rios Morales, who was also charged with the murder of Jose Ubiles Melendez.

Convicted by a Monroe County jury of 18 counts, which included Murder in the 2nd Degree, Luis Rios Morales was sentenced on Wednesday to 48 and 1/3 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections.

I highlight this sentence because I want to make it clear, I will do my part to hold people accountable and make our community a safer place. Our courtrooms are busy and the Assistant District Attorneys and I are continuously working for Monroe County and we will not slow down or delay our pursuit of justice.

Sandra



Homicide Update

So far in 2022:

City of Rochester Total: 7

Monroe County Total: 7

Monroe County Heroin Task Force Update

January 2022

Total Reported ODs: 58

Total Fatalities: 15

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

Ammenra Felton was indicted on Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for the death of Charlotte Thomas on January 23, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Phillip Byford Jr. was indicted on two counts of Burglary in the 2nd Degree in relation to incidents in the Town of Sweden on July 22, July 23 and August 29, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kristin Sippel, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Monroe County Judge Dollinger sentenced 38-year-old **Luis Rios Morales** to 48 and 1/3 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections. This comes after a jury conviction of Murder in the 2nd Degree, six counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, three counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, three counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th Degree, Conspiracy in the 4th Degree and two counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree. On August 29, 2019, Rochester Police Officers arrived at a house on Bay Street in the City of Rochester for a report of shots fired. Once they arrived, the officers found Jose Ubiles Melendez, who had been shot in the back of the head. Mr. Ubiles Melendez died at the scene. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, and Special Assistant District Attorney Megan Hausner, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Timothy Joseph III was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal weapon incident on September 18, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Greg Clark of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Clifton Wright was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal weapon incident on September 12, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy of the Special Investigations Bureau.

De'Andre Coley was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Firearm in relation to illegal weapon incidents from July 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Robertson of the Major Felony Bureau.

Damien Hess was indicted on two counts of Menacing a Police Officer or Peace Officer in relation to a threat to Rochester Police Officers on January 28, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan, Deputy Chief of the Major Felony Bureau.

Monica Hazine was indicted on Welfare Fraud in the 3rd Degree and ten counts of Falsifying Business Records in the 1st Degree in relation to events from 2016-2019. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney John Marsella, of the Public Corruption/Economic Crimes Bureau.

MCDA in the Community

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley, District Attorney Chief Investigator CJ Dominic and law enforcement partners from across the community attended the swearing-in of the new Greece Police Chief, Michael Wood and Deputy Chief Naser Zenelovic. Congratulations to both of these law enforcement giants, they will do great things for the residents of the Town of Greece!



Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley joined security directors from local school districts and colleges to answer their questions and present on safety concerns at the Gates Police Department.



Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and Assistant District Attorney Monica O'Brien, Deputy Chief of the Local Courts Bureau, presented in front of the Monroe County Supervisors Association.



MCDA in the News

<https://rbj.net/2022/02/25/sandra-doorley-3/>

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/man-indicted-on-murder-charges-for-lyell-avenue-shooting/6398350/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/shooter-sentenced-in-2019-bay-street-murder/>

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2022-02-23-rochester-man-sentenced-to-48-years-for-2019-murder/>

<https://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/rochester/state-data-undercuts-the-bail-reform-backlash/Content?oid=14281313>

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/2-women-indicted-for-separate-deadly-crashes/6385969/>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/rochester-man-going-prison-his-role-burning-rpd-car-duing-may-2020-violent-protests>

Welcome to the DA's Office!

Welcome to our newest Assistant District Attorneys, Armando Benitez and Jena Boise! Armando has been a paralegal in our office for the past year and Jena is a recent law school graduate from the University at Buffalo School of Law. Keep an eye out for ADA Benitez and ADA Boise in town and village courts. Welcome!



WE'RE HIRING

We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.